GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5038
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
HIKE IN AIR FARE ON PORT BLAIR KOLKATA PORT BLAIR SECTOR
BISHNU PADA RAY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the air fare for Port Blair-Kolkata-Port Blair sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether air fare for Port Blair-Chennai-Port Blair sector has also been increased and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the air fare for Port Blair-Kolkata-Port Blair and Port Blair-Chennai-Kolkata sector is higher than the North East;

(e) if so, whether the Government are aware that it has affected the tourism industry in Andaman & Nocobar Islands which is the only source of revenue;

(f) if so, whether the Government are proposing to take back 15 percent hike in air fare as was done for North East sector with a view to encourage tourism there; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) and (b): Effective 25th May, 2001, the fare on Kolkata-Port Blair sector including Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) and Passenger Service Fee (PSF) was increased from Rs.5925/- to Rs.6785/- as part of the flexi fare policy.

(c): Both Indian Airlines and Jet Airways operate between Chennai and Port Blair and continue to charge a fare of Rs.5995/- including IATT and PSF. This fare was not changed effective 25th May, 2001.

(d),(e),(f) and (g): Indian Airlines has historically maintained lower air fares to/from and within North Eastern region than the rest of India. The fares applicable on Indian Airlines services to/from Port Blair are on the pattern of fares of rest of Indian. Fares on Port Blair and North Eastern sectors have been increased after about three and a half years. Indian Airlines cannot assess the impact of increase in the fare on tourism as air travel is only one of the many factors having an impact on tourism.